In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 12, 17, 18 and 23 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

an application server; and

one or more of backend systems coupled to the application server;

wherein the one or more backend systems comprises a plurality of distinct data resources;

wherein the application server comprises:

an application configured to initiate requests for connections with the plurality of distinct data resources;

a plurality of data sources configured to provide connections with the plurality of distinct data resources; and

wherein the application server is configured to associate an identity with each of the plurality of data sources and to use the identity to determine whether one of the plurality of data sources provides connections to the same data resource as another of the plurality of data sources, wherein each identity is unique to one of the plurality of distinct data resources, and wherein multiple ones of the data sources have the same identity.

2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein in response to the application requesting a connection from one of the plurality of data sources, a data

source ID manager is configured to ascertain the identity of the data source from which the connection was requested and determine whether the identity matches the identity of any other of the plurality of data sources.

3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the data source ID manager is further configured to determine whether any of the data sources with matching identities previously supplied a connection to the application and, if a connection was previously supplied, to return the previously supplied connection to the application.

4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein if no connection from a data source with a matching identity exists, the data source is configured to forward the request to a corresponding data source to obtain a new connection.

5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the connection is a local connection.

6. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the identity comprises values for one or more data source properties.

7. (Original) The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the identity comprises database name, URL, and user name.

8. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein one or more of the plurality of data sources is a data source proxy, wherein the application server is configured to instantiate [[a]] the data source proxy for an abstract name of a data resource used by an application; ascertain an identity for ~~the~~ a true data source; and use the identity to link the proxy to the true data source.

9. (Original) The system as recited in claim 8, wherein multiple data source proxies correspond to the same data source identity, wherein in response to the

application requesting connections with a same data resource from multiple data source proxies, the data source proxies from which the connections were requested are configured to forward the connection requests to the data source whose identity corresponds to said proxies.

10. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein in response to a request to instantiate a data source corresponding to an abstract name, the application server is configured to determine an identity for the proposed data source, determine whether any existing data source has a matching identity, instantiate the proposed data source only if no existing data source with matching identity is found.

11. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the application server further comprises a transaction manager;

wherein in response to a request to commit a transaction the transaction manager is configured to identify a number of data resources participating in the transaction according to connections supplied for unique data source identities;

wherein if the number of data resources participating in the transaction is two or more the transaction manager is configured to commit the transaction utilizing a two-phase commit protocol; and

wherein if only one data resource participating in the transaction the transaction manager is configured to commit the transaction utilizing a one-phase commit optimization.

12. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving notification of a request for a connection;

ascertaining an identity of a data source associated with the request, wherein the data source is configured to provide the connection to one of a plurality of distinct data resources, and wherein said identity is unique to said one of said plurality of distinct data resources;

comparing said identity with [[the]] respective identities of multiple data sources with existing connections, wherein the identity of each of the multiple data sources is unique to a specific one of said plurality of distinct data resources;

providing an existing connection if an identity match is found with one of the data sources with existing connections; and

providing a new connection if no identity match is found.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the identity comprises values for one or more data source property.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the identity comprises database name, URL, and user name.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

creating one or more data source proxies, wherein multiple data source proxies correspond to the same data source identity;

each data source proxy associated with the same data source identity forwarding connection requests to the same data source whose identity corresponds to said proxies.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

in response to a request to commit a transaction, identifying the number of data resources participating in the transaction according to the number of unique data source identities used to establish data resource connections; and

if the number of data resources participating in the transaction is two or more, committing the transaction utilizing a two-phase commit protocol, and if only one data resource is participating in the transaction, committing the transaction utilizing a one-phase commit optimization.

17. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a request for a connection with a participant in a transaction;

ascertaining an identity of a local data source associated with the request;

attempting to identify a data source that is already participating in the transaction whose identity matches the identity of the data source associated with the request, wherein said attempting comprises comparing the ascertained identity to identities for a plurality of data sources, wherein each of the plurality of data sources is configured to provide a connection with one of a plurality of distinct data resources, and wherein each identity is unique to one of the plurality of distinct data resources;

sharing an existing connection associated with the identity if a data source with a matching identity is found; and

providing a new connection if no data source with a matching identity is found.

18. (Currently amended) A computer accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

receive notification of a request for a connection;

ascertain an identity of a data source associated with the request;

determine whether the identity of a data source from among a plurality of local and global data sources each having an existing connection matches the identity of a data source associated with the request, wherein each of the plurality of local and global data sources is configured to provide a connection with one of a plurality of distinct data resources, and wherein each of the plurality of local and global data sources has an identity unique to one of the plurality of distinct data resources;

provide the existing connection if an identity match is found; and

provide a new connection if no identity match is found.

19. (Original) The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 18, wherein the identity comprises values for one or more data source properties.

20. (Original) The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the identity comprises database name, URL, and user name.

21. (Original) The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to:

create one or more data source proxies, wherein multiple data source proxies correspond to the same data source identity;

wherein each data source proxy associated with the same data source identity forwards connection requests to the same data source whose identity corresponds to said proxies.

22. (Original) The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to:

in response to a request to commit a transaction, identify the number of data resources participating in the transaction according to the number of unique data source identities used to establish data resource connections; and

if the number of data resources participating in the transaction is two or more, commit the transaction utilizing a two-phase commit protocol, and if only one data resource is participating in the transaction, commit the transaction utilizing a one-phase commit optimization.

23. (Currently amended) A computer accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

receive a request for a connection with a participant in a transaction;

ascertain an identity of a local data source associated with the request;

attempt to identify a data source that is already participating in the transaction whose identity matches the identity of the data source associated with the request, wherein to attempt to identify comprises comparing the ascertained identity to identities for a plurality of data sources, wherein each of the plurality of data sources is configured to provide a connection with one of a plurality of distinct data resources, and wherein each identity is unique to one of the plurality of distinct data resources;

share an existing connection associated with the identity if a data source with matching identity is found; and

provide a new connection if no data source with matching identity is found.